

PRESERVING SOUTH AFRICA'S VETERINARY HISTORY

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH



Authors

- David Swanepoel, Agricultural Research Council
- Amelia Breytenbach, University of Pretoria
- Tertia Coetsee, University of Pretoria
- Susan Marsh, University of Pretoria



Affiliation

- David from the library, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Campus (hereafter called “ARC-OVR”)
- The other co-authors are from Jotello F Soga Library, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort (hereafter called “Jotello F Soga Library”)



Introduction

- History of veterinary science and education is embedded within the colonial history of South Africa
- Observations on unknown animal diseases occurred during this historical period
- Documented into written descriptions like journal articles and theses and captured as photos and glass negatives.



Introduction (cont.)

- Archival material which is difficult to locate, is crucial to complete the picture.

Cattle suffering from trypanosomosis in Uganda



219

Paper No. 26.
THE SCAB PROBLEM IN THE UNION.

By P. R. VILJOEN, M.R.C.V.S., Dr. Med. Vet., Deputy-Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Union of South Africa.

1. INTRODUCTION.

SCAB is one of the oldest diseases known in South Africa and has perhaps been longest under State control. It was heard of first in 1883, when the then Governor of the Cape, Simon v. d. Stel, issued a proclamation, containing certain measures that had to be taken in connection with outbreaks of the disease.

From the earliest days of settlement in this country and throughout the history of the four provinces now constituting the Union, scab loomed very largely as one of the most important and difficult disease problems that had to be faced.

Needless to say, a tremendous amount of legislation in connection with the control of this disease has seen the light of day, and, what is more important, a great deal of money (amounting probably to several million sterling) has been spent on its eradication. That this vast expenditure has been justified can, I think, be accepted, since there is very little doubt that the important sheep and wool industry in the Union would not have become established in the presence of scab. A parasitic skin disease like scab is, of course, very inimical to wool production, as every sheep farmer knows to his cost; the ill-effects on the sheep and its wool are not solely due to the parasites, but are also caused largely by the frequent immersions in scab-destroying fluids which infected flocks have to undergo.

The economic losses resulting from scab invasion are, therefore, of such great importance that the State must take every precaution against the introduction of the disease in sheep areas. In order to do this effectively, all sources of infection must be traced and destroyed as soon as possible.

What is of particular interest to us Veterinarians is that in the Union, up to 1924, all scab eradication measures were in the hands of laymen. It is not my intention to reflect in any way on previous administrations; I have no doubt that everybody concerned with the work did his utmost to achieve success, but it stands to reason that without a thorough scientific knowledge of the disease, the persons concerned must have worked under a severe handicap.

To give only a brief illustration of what transpired, I may point to the fact that goat scab (sarcoptic infection) was being dealt with under the Scab Regulations, while sarcoptic infection of other domestic animals did not receive any attention.

In the Union all three forms of sheep and goat scab, namely, sarcoptic, psoroptic and symbiotic, are dealt with under the Stock Diseases Act and come under the definition of "Scab."

2. ORGANIZATION.

Scab now falls under the control of this Division, and for its eradication the whole Veterinary organization of the Union is available. For purposes of Veterinary administration the whole Union is

Paper from the Proceedings of the 1929 Pan African Veterinary Conference, 1929 Pretoria, South Africa

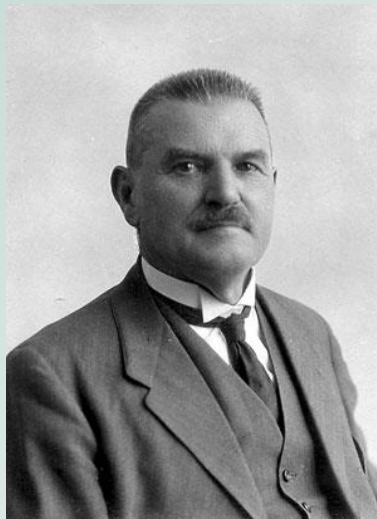


UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



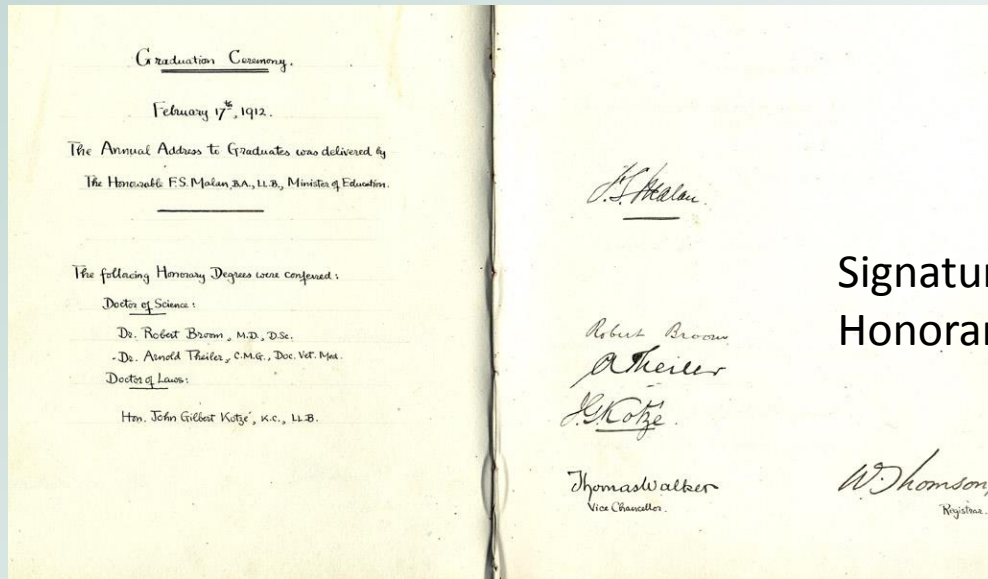
Development of Veterinary Science in SA

- Theiler and the Rinderpest epidemic, 1896
- The first South African to become a qualified veterinarian, was a Xhosa - Jotello Festiri Soga



Development of Veterinary Science in SA

- Research institute established in 1908
- Training at the institute as from 1920 under supervision of Transvaal University College
- Degrees awarded by University of South Africa



Signature of Sir Arnold Theiler in the UNISA Honorary doctorates graduation book, 1912



Development of Veterinary Science in SA

- Research Institute (with various names over the years) formed part of the state Department of Agriculture (with various names as well)
- Research Institute became part of the Agricultural Research Council in 1992
- Minus the vaccine factory, that became a state-owned company called Onderstepoort Biological Products in 2000



Development of Veterinary Science in SA

- Training took place as a joint venture with the University of Pretoria until separation in 1973
- Degrees were awarded by University of Pretoria, now an autonomous institution



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Safeguarding

- Historical items, documents and memorabilia were scattered
- In 2007 the Jotello F Soga Library realised the importance of safeguarding the veterinary history of South Africa

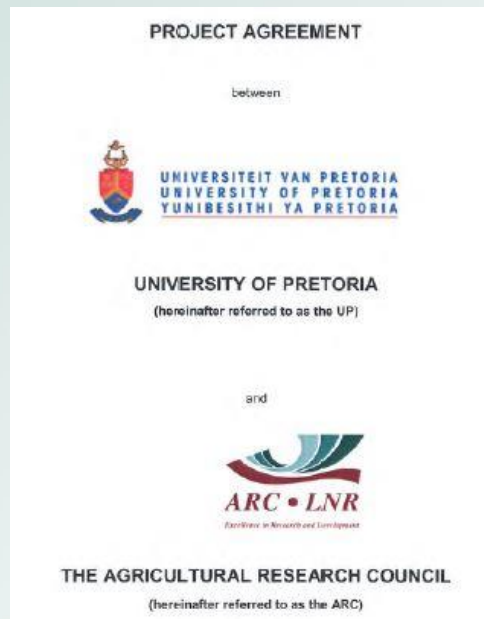


Donation from Prof Anna Verster containing photos and other memorabilia of Sir Arnold Theiler to the Jotello F Soga library



Safeguarding

- Material to be digitised and preserved in the UPSpace repository as a collection, named the South African National Veterinary Repository (SANVR) <https://repository.up.ac.za/handle/2263/3809>
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) closed between ARC-OVR and the University of Pretoria



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Safeguarding

- The Veterinary History Committee of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA), now known as the Veterinary History Society also contributed material



Resources preserved in UPSpace

- One of the criteria to build a veterinary historical collection is to carefully select and evaluate the resources to be digitised and uploaded
- 1929 Pan-African Veterinary Conference

Paper No. 24.

**BOTULISM IN THE DOMESTICATED ANIMALS IN
SOUTH AFRICA.**

By E. M. ROBINSON, M.R.C.V.S., Dr.Med.Vet.,
Research Officer, Department of Agriculture, Union of South Africa.

Paper No. 28.

**POISONOUS PLANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA HITHERTO
UNKNOWN.**

By D. G. STEYN, B.Sc., Dr.Med.Vet., Veterinary Research Officer,
Department of Agriculture, Union of South Africa.

Paper No. 33.

RABIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

By P. J. DU TOIT, B.A., Ph.D., Dr.Med.Vet., Director of Veterinary
Services and Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture,
Union of South Africa.



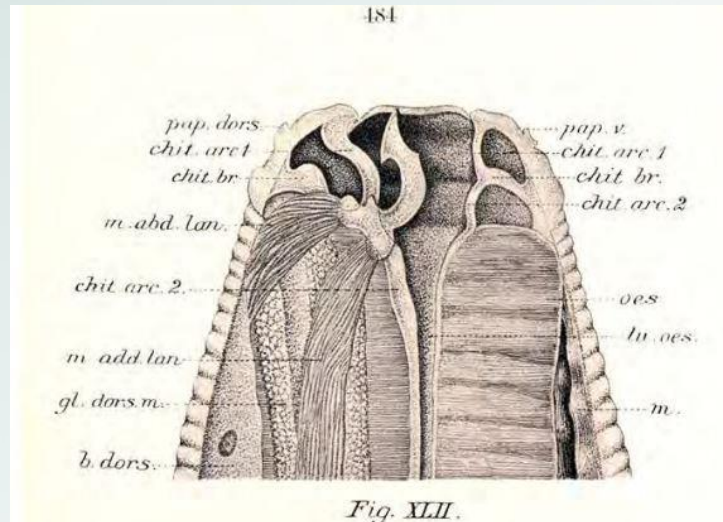
Resources cont. – Frank Veglia

- Frank Veglia’s landmark article “The anatomy and life-history of *Haemonchus contortus* (Rud.)”

**The Anatomy and Life-History of the
Haemonchus Contortus (Rud).**

BY
Dr. FRANK VEGLIA,
Veterinary Research Laboratories, Onderstepoort.

this Bulletin. The work represents probably one of the best studies in veterinary helminthology that has yet been published. A very large part of the work is devoted to anatomical and morphological details, but the chapters dealing with the influence of the environment on the eggs and larvae, migration of the mature larvae, and the parasitic life of the larva and adult worm provide very instructive reading.



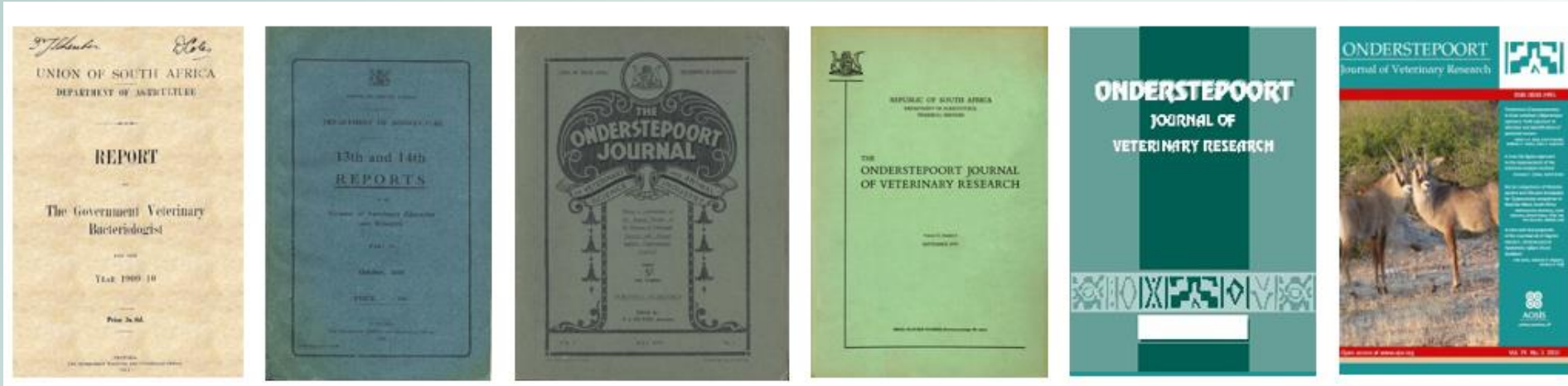
Resources cont. — Sir Arnold Theiler's last lecture

• Sir Arnold Theiler's last lecture

This is probably the last lecture Sir Arnold Theiler gave to BVSc students at Onderstepoort, 1936. He died in London soon afterwards. The lecture was made available by Dr M. de Lange, who graduated in 1936. (Full text available in UPSpace)



Resources cont. – OJVR



- Reports of the Government Veterinary Bacteriologist of the Transvaal
- Reports of the Director of Veterinary Research
- Reports of the Director of Veterinary Education and Research
- Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry
- **Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research**



Resources cont. - Biographies

- Biographies compiled by the Veterinary History Society
- Example: Dr John Isaac Quinn



Photo of Dr John Isaac Quinn

QUINN, JOHN ISAAC : (February 15, 1900, Klerksdorp, South Africa – March 20, 1950, on train between Nelspruit and Pretoria, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Physiologist*; Son of John George and Emmarentia (nee Botha) Quin. Married Petronella Schuttal-van Woudenberg, 4 December 1928.

EDUCATION : Transvaal University College [then under the aegis of University of South Africa], 1924 (member of 1st class of students to graduate from newly created veterinary faculty at Onderstepoort) : BVSc (with honours); University of South Africa, 1928 : DVSc(*cum laude*).

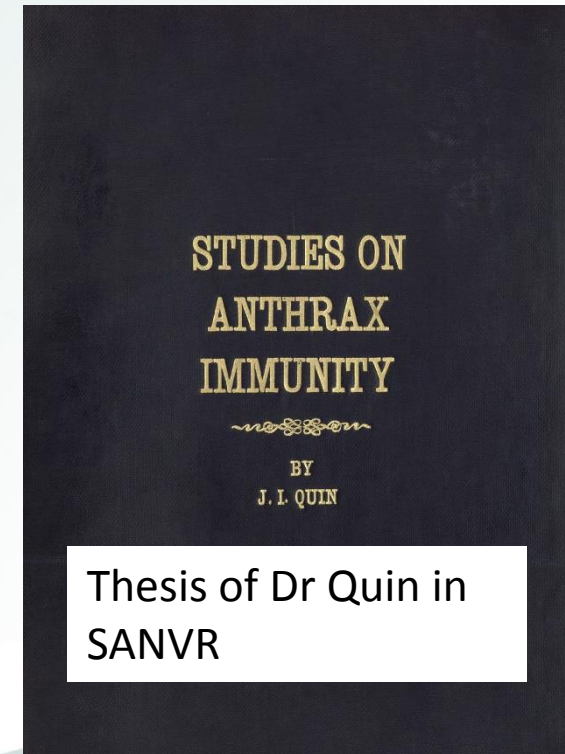
CAREER : 1925 – 1936, research veterinary officer in Section of Bacteriology at Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort; 1937 – 1948, senior veterinary research officer in Section of Physiology at the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort; 1934 – 1950, Professor of Physiology at Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; December 1949 – 20 March 1950 (he died in office), Director of Veterinary Services and Dean of Veterinary Faculty at Onderstepoort.

CONTRIBUTIONS : Did pioneering research work on immunity against anthrax; studied physiological aspects of digestive disturbances of cattle under South African conditions; researched photosensitivity due to plant poisoning in sheep and goats and porphyria in cattle; studied formation and role of sex hormones in cattle. Will probably best be remembered for determining with Rimington that the photodynamic agent in hepatogenous photosensitizations (such as geeldikkop and *Lantana* poisoning) was phylloerythrin, a degradation product of chlorophyll. Noted for his concise and lucid style, his articles have served as examples for countless young researchers of how publications should be written.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS : Awarded the Senior Captain Scott Medal of South African Biological Society in 1944; member of South African Association for the Advancement of Science. Well regarded internationally: the distinguished New Zealand researcher, NT Clare, in 1951 dedicated his classic review 'Photosensitization in Diseases in Domestic Animals' to the memory of Quin, 'pre-eminent' in the field, a gracious acknowledgement of a colleague, today rarely seen in science.

Biography of Dr Quin in SANVR

phylloerythrin in the digestive tracts of various domestic animals. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry* (1935) 4, 461-471.



Thesis of Dr Quin in SANVR



Resources cont. – Biographies 2

- He can be linked to his full text thesis “Studies on anthrax immunity” available (with permission from UNISA) in the “Early Veterinary Theses – University of South Africa 1920-1950” collection. A photo of Dr Quin is available in the “Historic Glass Plate Collection” of the ARC-OVR while his journal articles can be retrieved in full text from the Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry in the SANVR collection.

UPSpace Home → South African National Veterinary Repository → Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research → Search

Showing 10 out of a total of 112 results for community: Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research. (0.214 seconds)

1 2 3 4 ... 12 Next Page

Studies on the alimentary tract of merino sheep in South Africa. XIII. The role of prussic acid in the aetiology of acute bloat
Clark, R.; Quin, J.I. (Published by The Government Printer, Pretoria, 1945)
in the Aetiology of Acute Bloat. By R. CLARK and J. I. QUIN, Section of Physiology, Onderstepoort. INTRODUCTION. IN 1943 Quin showed that bloating in ruminants was frequently associated with the formation of a frothy mass in the rumen, attributed to the rapid... whether a sheep with a paralysed rumen could eructate gas. 8 209 STUDIES ON THE ALIMENTARY TRACT OF MERINO SHEEP IN SOUTH AFRICA. XIII. METHOD. Merino sheep with a permanent ruminal fistula as described by Quin (1938) were used...

Studies on the photosensitisation of animals in South Africa. V. The toxicity of *Lippia rehmanni* (Pears) and *Lippia pretoriensis* (Pears)
Quin, J.I. (Pretoria : Union of South Africa, Dept. of Agriculture, 1933)
stream_source_info 35quin1933.pdf.txt stream_content_type text/plain stream_size 8950 Content-Encoding UTF-8 stream_name 35quin1933.pdf.txt Content-Type text/plain; charset=UTF-8 Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry, Volume 1, Number 2, 1933. Studies on the Photosensitisation of Animals in South Africa. V. The Toxicity of *Lippia Rehmanni* (Pears) and *Lippia pretoriensis* (Pears). By J. I. QUIN, D.V.Sc., Veterinary Research Officer...

Studies on the alimentary tract of Merino sheep in South Africa. V. The motility of the rumen under various conditions
Quin, J.I.; Van der Wath, J.G. (Pretoria : The Government Printer, 1938)
stream_source_info 16quin1938_11b.pdf.txt stream_content_type text/plain stream_size 6 Content-Encoding ISO-8859-1 stream_name 16quin1938_11b.pdf.txt Content-Type text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1 ...

Studies on the alimentary tract of the merino sheep in South Africa. XVIII. The effect of fasting on the activity of the ruminal flora of sheep and cattle
Quin, J.I.; Oyeert, W.; Clark, R. (Published by The Government Printer, Pretoria, South Africa., 1951)

Communities & Collections
Issue Date
Authors
Titles
Subjects
Supervisor
UP Author
UP Postgraduate
Type

This Community
Issue Date
Authors
Titles
Subjects
Supervisor
UP Author
UP Postgraduate
Type

My Account
Login
Register

UPSpace Workspace

Discover

Author
Quin, J.I. (34)
Clark, R. (17)
Kellerman, T. Stephanus (7)



Glass-plate collection

- Glass-plate negative collection in the possession of the ARC-OVR.
- Currently it is in the process of being assigned metadata and uploaded to UPSpace.
- Subjects covered in this collection are the early developments at Onderstepoort, students and staff, other research stations like Allerton and Kaalplaas and buildings



Images from the glass-plate collection



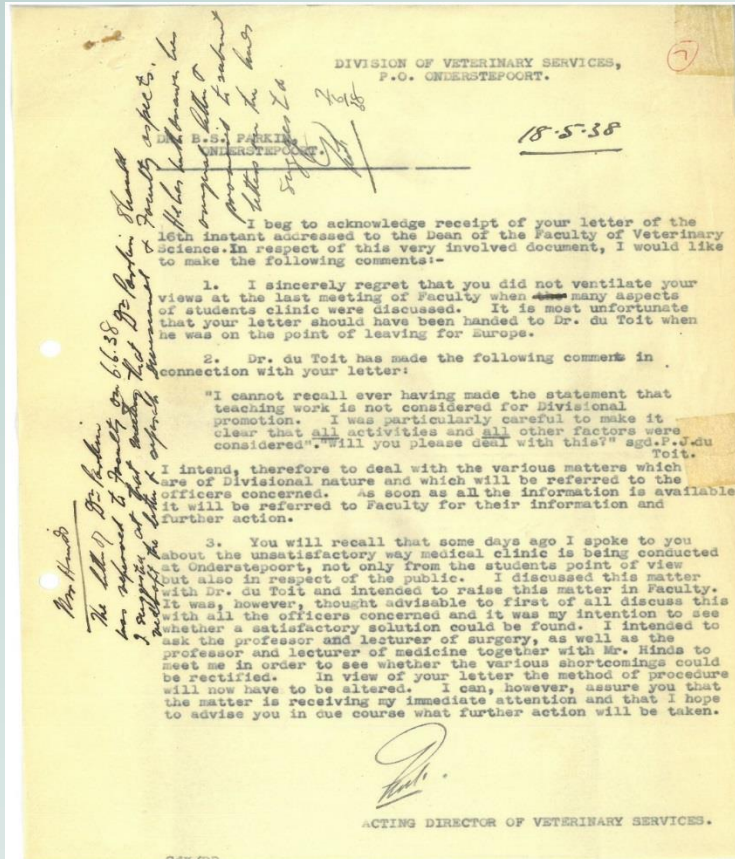
UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



ARC • LNR
Excellence in Research and Development

Future possibilities

- Administrative archive, 1919-1962



Dr. Bately Scott Parkin
(1892/07/16-1950/07/16)



Future possibilities 2

- Valuable old books, out of copyright, in the ARC-OVR library
- Agricultural Journal of the Cape of Good Hope contains the earliest veterinary articles produced on South African soil
- Digitised partially by Sabinet



Conclusion

- Veterinary librarians are frequently faced with requests to supply historical information for various commemorations, presentations and writings
- As librarians and archivists with experience in working with software development, data practices and scholarly communication, we have taken up the responsibility of preserving the veterinary history of South Africa. When working in collaboration with other institutions and individuals we can avoid losing our wealth of historical veterinary information.



Thank you

Questions?



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

